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A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
November 2017

KalamazooVALLEY community college

GET IT DONE - GET READY FOR WINTER SEMESTER

Art, Detective Fiction and the History of Rock and Roll are just a few of the many hundreds of courses available for the Winter 2018 semester at Kalamazoo Valley.

Help registering for classes is one of the many services that will be available at the Get it Done – Get Ready for the Winter Semester event held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Texas Township Campus Nov. 29 from 4 – 7 p.m. in the Student Commons.

The event will serve as a one-stop option for students, parents and community members who have questions or are interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley.

Representatives from the Financial Aid Office, Office for Enrollment Management, the Admissions, Registration and Records Office, Student Activities and Organizations and Student Success Services will be on hand to assist those in attendance.

"Kalamazoo Valley offers a wide variety of programs in a number of different career pathways. These programs will be on display at our November 29 event with academic deans and a number of faculty on hand to answer specific questions you may have," said Executive Vice President for Instructional and Student Success Services Dr. Dennis A. Bertch. "Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the services and programs of study available at Kalamazoo Valley."

With more than 100 questions, filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be an overwhelming process for parents and students. Fill it out incorrectly and you may jeopardize receiving need-based grants, some merit-based grants, and possible loans that can assist in paying for college.

The Financial Aid Office will help anyone in the community who needs assistance with their college financial aid paperwork or would like to learn more about the financial aid process. Computers will be available in order to access the online FAFSA application. Attendees should bring all necessary paperwork to complete the FAFSA, including 2015 tax return information.

"We're here to help," said Director of Financial Aid Alisha Cederberg. "I encourage anyone who has questions about financial aid to stop by – there's a lot of money out there to help with the costs of attending college – and the process can be complicated."

Additionally, attendees at the Nov. 29 event can complete a number of the necessary steps to becoming a Kalamazoo Valley student, including: touring the Texas Township Campus, completing placement tests, talking to an academic advisor or counselor, registering for New Student Orientation and enrolling for the winter semester, which begins Jan. 8.

If available, participants should bring any educational documents, including high school and college transcripts and placement test scores to ensure proper course placement.

"There's still time to become part of the Kalamazoo Valley community," said Director of Enrollment Management EJ Bast. "We're trying to remove as many barriers as possible for students to enroll in classes."

Students attending college for the first time, Bast stressed, must attend a New Student Orientation prior to registering for classes. "We want students to succeed at Kalamazoo Valley and New Student Orientation lays the groundwork for that success," he said. "There are several orientations in November and December that students can attend and still have time to get enrolled for winter classes."

Students who have already been accepted to the college can register for New Student Orientation by calling 269.373.7800 or they can register in person at the Nov. 29 event.

Upcoming New Student Orientations at the Texas Township Campus include:

Nov. 28	**9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
Dec. 4	**1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Dec. 13	**1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Dec. 19	**9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
Jan. 2	**1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

For more information about this special event and how to apply to the college and register for classes visit www.kvcc.edu/getitdone.

The event is free and open to the community.

CHANGE A STUDENT'S LIFE WITH A DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION

Melody Sjoren

Many students can't afford college, but every student deserves a chance. For more than 50 years, Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been providing life-changing experiences for students and their families. "Although the college offers one of the lowest tuition rates in the state, many of our students can't afford to attend college without assistance," said Director of Development for Kalamazoo Valley Community College Stephen Doherty.

He explained that during the 2016-17 school year, the college processed more than 14,000 requests for financial aid. Of these requests, only 41 percent or 5,775 students received some form of financial aid. "The number of financial aid applications continues to increase each year and the Foundation's scholarship funds help meet student needs," Doherty said. "Investments go further here. An investment in the life of a student pays long lasting dividends. For $315, you can invest in one three-contact hour class for a student. For $2,090, you can invest in one semester for a student. For $4,180 you can invest in a student for one year."

Kalamazoo Valley students often say that the college's faculty members deliver high quality instruction at affordable rates. Loy Norrix High School graduate Nicholas Martin was the first person in his family to go to college and is now working on his Ph.D. at the University of Florida. He's researching the chemical ecology of the Florida Hairstreak, Eumaeus atala, an endangered butterfly that's native to Florida. He credits his experience at Kalamazoo Valley with helping him achieve educational success. "Initially, I lacked direction, resources, and at times felt lost," he recalled. "Fortunately, I found my path at Kalamazoo Valley with the help of some truly amazing instructors."

Martin transferred to Western Michigan University after attending Kalamazoo Valley, earning a master's degree. "Without the opportunities and instruction available at Kalamazoo Valley, I do not think that I would have made it to this point in my career," he said. "I am deeply indebted to the faculty there, and the institution as a whole. Kalamazoo Valley allowed me to make a difference in my life."

Dental hygienist Melody Sjoren loves her work at Paw Paw Family Dentistry. She shopped around for a dental school before choosing Kalamazoo Valley. "The school definitely prepared me for my career and working in the dental field," she said. "The instructors were excellent and I liked the small class size." She took prerequisite courses at Valley before enrolling in the college's dental hygiene program.

Sjoren considers herself an educator who helps her patients understand how to take good care of themselves. "I love my patients and my co-workers," she said. "I really enjoy having the opportunity to serve the community by getting to know my patients and helping them improve their dental health. I'm a huge advocate of prevention and instilling confidence."

Amy O'Donnell Lueth, design director at the Kalamazoo-based custom software company Maestro, said she too, found her passion at Valley. "I attended Kalamazoo Valley because I didn't know which direction I wanted to head in as far as a career," she said. "Nursing, teaching art, and medical-related fields were all options I considered when I first started. I took a few art classes alongside general education requirements and realized my love for art then. Still not sure what to do with this passion, I gave graphic design a shot. I had never touched the design software and didn't have a computer," O'Donnell Lueth said. "Because of the Center for New Media - the computer lab, the classes, the professors and building relationships with everyone there, I fell in love with design and had everything I needed to grow and excel as a designer. My teachers became my mentors and my classmates became my friends because of the programs and smaller class sizes. I earned three associate degrees - graphic design, web design and illustration. I think I earned those because I enjoyed my internship there at the school, assisting with art galleries and student competitions. Kalamazoo Valley helped me prepare for the work I'm doing today by teaching me so much from the start, giving me real world opportunities and building a community within the CNM."

Doherty said he loves hearing and sharing the stories of students who've moved on to successful careers after graduating from Valley. "Nothing is more rewarding than helping the young people of our community discover and develop their talents," Doherty said.

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation, an independent 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, is one way the college works to assist students with financial needs. The Foundation was established in 1980 to accept and administer unrestricted contributions and those designated for specific purposes, such as student scholarships, the purchase of equipment to improve instruction, and the construction of new facilities.

Although funds are always accepted, the Foundation's annual fund drive is underway now. For more information or to contribute to the Foundation, go to www.kvcc.edu/foundation/support.htm.

COLLABORATION STRIVES TO IMPROVE
HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE OF AREA ATHLETES

Kalamazoo Area Runners

Improving performance is a top priority for runners and endurance athletes. As more and more evidence suggests that nutrient-dense foods and real-food diets can significantly affect health and performance, Kalamazoo Valley is stepping forward with hands-on cooking classes for weekend warriors, serious athletes and others who are interested in improving diet and nutrition.

"Conversations about optimal eating before, during, and after long training runs and workouts is a hot topic," said Kalamazoo Valley's Director for Food Safety and Nutrition Vivien McCurdy. "These new hands-on cooking classes focus on how to create healthy, whole-food meals and snacks at home with local seasonal ingredients."

As a part of a new collaboration with the Kalamazoo Area Runners (KAR), Kalamazoo Valley will provide exercise nutrition classes that will be open to KAR members and interested community members.

"The partnership with Kalamazoo Valley gives our local athletes access to specialized expertise in healthy cooking and sports nutrition," KAR Board President Bonnie Sexton said. "For runners and other endurance athletes, good health and nutrition are foundational to training and ultimately peak performance."

Class participants will be immersed in a hands-on cooking class with an exercise dietitian and a chef. They will learn the benefits of using real-food recipes to replace purchased food-supplement products.

"Many stores stock more than 50 types of energy bars and over 30 kinds of sports drinks," McCurdy said. "Replacing these prepared products with homemade healthy meals, snacks, and drinks does not have to be complicated, confusing or expensive. Eating for peak performance, in fact, often starts from simple home recipes. By switching out nuts, seeds, grains, spices, fruits and vegetables the options are nearly limitless."

Classes will provide tips on using a whole-food, plant-based eating pattern to improve endurance. It will also increase understanding of the necessary timing and frequency of food and hydration intake to meet competition and health goals. "Kalamazoo has become a hub for 'foodies' who are also athletes," Sexton said. "Combining the best of both is a win-win."

These hands-on cooking classes will be available on January 24, January 31, February 21 and April 11. They are open to the public and are scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the college's Culinary and Allied Health Building on the Bronson Healthy Living Campus, 418 East Walnut Street. The cost per session is $65. To learn more about each class visit www.kvcc.edu/medicalculinary.

This series is being offered as a part of the college's medical culinary curriculum focused on improving the health of the community by maximizing awareness about the link between food and disease prevention and management.

To register go to https://kvcc.edu/trainingschedule or call 269.353.1265 for more information.

STUDENTS FIND FOUR-YEAR DEGREES
THROUGH UNIVERSITY CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

On Kalamazoo Valley's campus, there are students on their way to a bachelor's degree. And they are not just taking a few classes to supplement another college's program of study. Students can now achieve a four-year degree without ever leaving Valley's campus with new streamlined programs at the University Center.

Thanks to a unique partnership with Davenport University and Siena Heights University, students can now quickly and cost effectively work toward a bachelor's degree at Kalamazoo Valley.

Since 2016, the University Center has been helping Kalamazoo Valley students find ways to complete a four-year degree, and for many programs, it can be done completely from the Texas Township Campus. Located just inside the tower entrance, the University Center, Room 1510, houses staff from Davenport University and Siena Heights University who are committed to helping students achieve their academic goals.

Ashley Ziegler, assistant director of graduate and professional enrollment for Siena Heights University, and Kathy Stewart, campus director for Davenport University, are eager to meet with students. "We have an open-door policy, we want everyone to feel welcome," Ziegler said. Interested students are encouraged to stop in to talk to one of them as soon as they can. "Some students think they need to have an associate degree before they can even make an appointment," Stewart said. "The sooner students come to talk to us the better." The staff at the University Center wants to help guide students through their degree from Valley as well as their future degrees to make sure that they are on track to getting their bachelor's degree as soon as possible.

This process is referred to as a 3+1 transfer model. Students complete a two-year AA, AS, or AAS degree from Kalamazoo Valley. After graduating with the two-year degree, a third year of study can be completed at Valley while enrolling in a bachelor's program through Davenport or Siena Heights. From there, students have many options for finishing their bachelor's degree, including in-person classes on Kalamazoo Valley's campus. "Our programs can fit almost all schedules and learning styles," Ziegler said. Both universities have online, and in-person classes in a variety of different fields.

"The most satisfying part of my job is helping students build confidence and evolve into a career-ready graduate," Stewart explained. She loves to hear great news of past students who find employment within their area of study.

Derek DeLange has been a student at Kalamazoo Valley since 2012 and decided to enroll at Davenport in 2016 to study business management and administration. "One of the benefits I receive by going to Davenport through the University Center is the discounted tuition. I pay everything out of pocket with no financial aid. Graduating with no debt is a big goal of mine," DeLange explained. "The University Center has helped me get that much closer to having my degree and getting an internship."

For people like Kim Petrucci, a Kalamazoo Valley and Siena Heights student, the program made all the difference. "As a non-traditional student, I can finally reach my educational goal without having to relocate, worry about transportation to class, or suffer any stress or confusion from an academic setting that might be larger than I wish to handle," Petrucci said. "It is truly a blessing and a bonus that I can experience the positivity of taking interesting, accredited classes, taught by quality instructors, and I can do all of this while attending classes, one or two evenings a week."

Petrucci's major is Community and Human Services with a concentration in Family Systems. She is extremely excited to achieve her goal of graduation, which is expected to happen in May or August of 2019. "Ashley has been an important, vital part of my Siena Heights enrollment, registration, and degree-planning process," Petrucci said.

Both universities have a mix of traditional and non-traditional students, and no one path is the same for any of them. The University Center strives to help anyone with an academic dream. "I measure my own success based on our students' success," Ziegler said.

For more information visit the University Center in Room 1510, Texas Township Campus or contact Stewart at kathy.stewart@davenport.edu or Ziegler at aziegle1@sienaheights.edu.

DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY offers the following programs through the University Center:

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Business
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Human Resource Management
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Management
- Bachelor of Science, Medical Case Management
- Bachelor of Science, Concurrent Nursing

SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY offers the following programs through the University Center:

- Bachelor of Applied Science Allied Health, Public Safety, Technical Fields, and Trades/ Apprenticeships
- Bachelor of Arts, Community & Human Services
- Bachelor of Arts, Multidisciplinary Studies
- Bachelor of Arts, Professional Communication

MERIT SCHOLARS
THRIVE AT KALAMAZOO VALLEY

Samantha Veltrie

Kalamazoo Valley student Samantha Veltrie, a graduate of Three Rivers High School, was awarded a Merit Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. For Veltrie, this was more than just money. It gave her peace of mind. "The scholarship has enabled me to not have the financial worry of how to pay for classes so I can focus on my education."

Already interested in Kalamazoo Valley, Veltrie visited the campus in early 2017 and was impressed. She stopped into the Enrollment Management Office and talked to Megan Pauken, an enrollment specialist. "I'm really happy I found the right person to talk to," Veltrie said, as she was interested in learning more about scholarships available to incoming freshmen. Veltrie was surprised at how simple the application process was. "Getting this scholarship made the decision to come to Kalamazoo Valley even easier," Veltrie continued. "This school has so much to offer, the Merit Scholarship allows me to explore my educational options."

Merit Scholarships are for top performing Michigan high school scholars. Funds are to be used during their first two years of college. Eligible applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, a minimum ACT composite score of 21 or a minimum new SAT composite score of 1060. A high school guidance counselor or designated high school official must sign the application and provide an official high school transcript.

"Initially the college's Board of Trustees approved the scholarships for one year and 19 students were selected," Executive Vice President for Enrollment Management and Campus Operations Mike Collins said. "Due to the academic success of the inaugural student recipients, the Trustees expanded the Merit Scholarships to become renewable. Now 50 scholarships are awarded each academic year." The students represent 25 different high schools.

The statistics support that these students were worthy of the award. As a whole, scholarship recipients' average cumulative GPA is 3.875. Their test scores are just as impressive, 1179 for the SAT and 25 for the ACT.

"One great benefit for the student scholars is that $3,000 goes a long way given our low tuition rates and minimal fees," Collins said. The funds can be used toward tuition and books. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester, and can receive an additional $3,000 award for their sophomore year if they continue to achieve academic success.

High school seniors interested in applying for a Merit Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year must have their completed applications submitted to the Kalamazoo Valley Enrollment Management Office at the Texas Township Campus in Room 4261 by Dec. 15, 2017.

For more information and a complete list of scholarships available visit www.kvcc.edu/admissions/finaid/scholarships/

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Sarah Woloszyk

Sarah Woloszyk never imagined that the skills she mastered as a graduate of Kalamazoo Valley's EMT and Paramedic certificate programs would be tested on anything other than on a pop quiz or final exam while on campus.

But on the late morning of Monday, April 10, the 20-year-old performed life saving measures on fellow student Ethan Harlow, who went into cardiac arrest outside the main entrance of the college's Texas Township Campus.

"I saw a crowd of people and a guy on the ground whose face was blue," said Wolosyzk, whose college career began at Kalamazoo Valley in 2014 as a Gull Lake High School dual-enrolled student. "I checked for a pulse and knew what I had to do to help."

With assistance from officers from the college's Department of Public Safety, Woloszyk worked on Harlow until an ambulance arrived. She used an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to restart Harlow's heart, which had stopped for more than two minutes.

Harlow had just run to campus from his home, a mile away. It was a route the healthy and active 20-year-old had run regularly.

"I don't remember a lot about what happened, just that I didn't really feel well that morning," Harlow recalled.

The Kalamazoo resident spent five days in the hospital recovering - dealing with memory loss and endless testing. He was diagnosed with a heart arrhythmia and had a cardiac defibrillator implanted in his chest to prevent his heart from stopping in the future. Today, thanks to Woloszyk, he is fully recovered, continuing his studies and plans to enroll in Kalamazoo Valley's nursing program next year.

"I owe everything to Sarah – without her I wouldn't be here," he said.

After being released from the hospital, Harlow tracked Woloszyk down through Facebook to thank her. The pair met and continue to stay in touch.

"There's nothing I wouldn't do for her," Harlow said.

Woloszyk's heroics, she says, are just part of her job. After completing her EMT and Paramedic certifications in 2015 and 2016 respectively, she secured work in January 2016 with Life EMS of Kalamazoo – as a part-time EMT. By October, she was working full time as a paramedic while also continuing her studies at Kalamazoo Valley. She's plans to eventually transfer to a four-year university and become a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner.

"I love my job and everything that I get to experience," she said. "I have no idea what each day will bring."

At 20, Woloszyk is the youngest employee the ambulance company has ever hired, thanks in part to classes she completed at Kalamazoo Valley while still in high school as part of the Education for Employment (EFE) program.

"I always knew I wanted to work in the medical field but I wasn't sure which area," Woloszyk said. "The EMT and Paramedic programs are great because they expose you to so many different aspects of the medical field. It gives you the best options and freedom in your career."

Woloszyk credits EMS Program Director Dan Benard for the quality of training and education she received.

"Kalamazoo Valley offers the best paramedic program in the area, thanks to Dan Benard," she said. "He's fantastic. He always encouraged us to always do better because you can't mess up when you have people's lives in your hands."

For more information about health careers at Kalamazoo Valley, visit www.kvcc.edu.

VALLEY
AT THE TOP

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Kalamazoo Valley among the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the $1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. "We are delighted that Kalamazoo Valley Community College has been acknowledged by the Aspen Institute," said President Marilyn Schlack. "Student success has always been the priority at Kalamazoo Valley. Many of our programs have gained national recognition and even more importantly, we are preparing students for both current and emerging careers."

Higher education attainment has never been more important. Estimates from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce suggest that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require at least some college education. The vast majority of students who enroll in community colleges do so because they believe that postsecondary education will provide them a path to rewarding work, stable employment, and family-sustaining wages.

"Especially in the current social and economic climate, it is exceptionally important that our nation's community colleges develop the diverse talent needed to fuel democratic engagement, social mobility, and economic opportunity and growth," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Through this competition we're working to inspire other institutions across our country to ensure more students succeed in college and their lives beyond those campuses."

Kalamazoo Valley was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas, serving as few as 300 students and as many as 95,000 students, these top 150 colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

For more about the Aspen Institute visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY'S
MUSIC PROGRAMS ENHANCE LIFE

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band

The Kalamazoo Valley Community College Campus Band was created in the fall of 2003 by its current conductor Christopher Garrett. "From the original band of 20 members, it has consistently grown over the years to an average of 50 members," Garrett said. It provides a musical outlet for people in the Kalamazoo community interested in performing instrumental music. We are definitely filling a niche."

The band presents a mini-concert in the middle of each semester, a formal concert at the end of each semester and provides the music for Kalamazoo Valley commencement ceremonies.

Garrett came to Kalamazoo Valley from Glen Oaks Community College, where he was in charge of the music department. Prior to that, he served as the high school band director at two local high schools and in Ohio. The Campus Band was in the planning stages when Garrett joined the faculty.

Today, the band includes Kalamazoo Valley students and employees, Western Michigan University students, homeschooled students, and community members. About one half of the band members are community members who travel to the college for the enjoyment of playing with the group. Garrett said membership spans from an occasional home-schooled high school student to community members in their 90s. "As a community college, we want to serve the community and we're definitely doing that," Garrett said.

Delia Baker, program coordinator at Kalamazoo Valley's Groves Campus, plays the saxophone in the band. "Music is a huge passion of mine," she said. "For as long as I can remember, music has played an active role in my life." She started playing the piano as a six-year-old and still takes lessons. She started playing the saxophone in sixth grade. Baker said she has played the saxophone as often as she could. "I played in a variety of bands throughout middle school and high school including concert band, symphonic band, marching band, jazz band, and an indoor brass and percussion ensemble. As a senior at Portage Central High School, I was appointed as one of the drum majors of our marching band. During my spare time, I would also teach saxophone lessons to beginning players." She was awarded the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence from high school band directors Pat and Rennee Flynn.

At age 17, Baker enlisted in the U.S. Army as a saxophonist. She was a member of the 126 Army Band, for eight years. By 2003 when Garrett was starting the Campus Band, Baker had completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training with the Army. She returned to Kalamazoo as a member of the National Guard. "I enrolled in classes at Valley in the fall of 2003," Baker recalled. "When I was walking by the auditorium one day, I overheard the band rehearsing. I sat down in an auditorium chair and was so delighted to see a band at Kalamazoo Valley. I found information on the website and contacted Chris Garrett the next day. I am so glad that I did!"

She has been a member of the band since January 2004. "I have been able to be a part of the band the majority of the time from 2004 until the present day - when my schedule with school and work would allow," Baker said. "Chris has not only formed a band, but he has created a second family for many of us. The thing that makes this band so unique is the wide array of people and talents that participate. We have high school students who participate in the band while they attend other classes at Kalamazoo Valley, we have community college students of a variety of ages, we have professionals like me who enjoy a break in their work day to do something they love, and we even have retired individuals who never want their love of music to fade away."

Baker said music enhances her life in many ways. "Music made me a better student and makes me a better employee - there are tons of scholarly articles that prove music improves one's IQ and ability to learn and apply new knowledge. Music is my stress outlet as well as my time to relax. Music is my therapy to soothe an overactive mind. Music is a way to express myself in ways that words fail. Overall, I feel that music makes me who I am," she said.

Students who want to join the band should enroll in MUS 110 Campus Band. Community members can also participate. The band rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays and performs a mini-concert part way through the semester.

This fall, the Music Department's semester band concert will be held in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8. This concert is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Chris Garrett at 269.488.4102 or cgarrett@kvcc.edu.

Students and community members can also participate in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Community Chorus. Michelle Bauman serves as the director of the non-audition, multi-age choir. Members are Kalamazoo Valley students as well as area residents. The group performs three mini-concerts each semester and also performs at community events. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 3:25 p.m. in the Dale B. Lake Auditorium. For more information contact Michelle Bauman at 269.488.4430 or mbauman@kvcc.edu.

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